Marked-up Version of the Claims:

1   1.   (previously presented) A billing system for automatically charging a call to a
2   predetermined telephone line, the billing system comprising:
3   a.   a service configured to receive an incoming call from a calling party and to
4   initiate an outgoing call to a called party;
5   b.   a switch coupled to the predetermined telephone line configured to store billing
6   information in response to a triggering event; and
7   c.   a control point coupled to the service, the calling party, and the switch wherein the
8   control point is configured to activate the triggering event in response to receiving
9   an appropriate signal from the service and to transfer the incoming call from the
10   service to the called party such that the calling party and the called party are
11   connected thereby forming the outgoing call, wherein the billing information
12   corresponding to the outgoing call is stored in the switch and the stored billing
13   information is used to charge the predetermined telephone line.

1   2.   (original) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the service is a voice
2   messaging system.

1   3.   (previously presented) The billing system according to claim 1 further comprising an
2   additional switch coupled to the control point configured to transfer the call from the service to
3   the called party wherein the calling party and the called party are connected and the service is
4   disconnected.

1   4.   (previously presented) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the
2   predetermined telephone line is set as a specific telephone line by the calling party.

1   5.   (cancelled)

1   6.   (currently amended) A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein
2   a user initiates the call from a calling party to a called party through a service, comprising the

3   following steps:

4   a.   ~~conveying data from the service to a control point, wherein the data indicates the~~

5   ~~called party and the calling party~~ configuring a service to receive an incoming call

6   from a calling party and to initiate an outgoing call to a called party;

7   b.   ~~temporarily routing the call to a switch associated with the predetermined~~

8   ~~telephone line~~ configuring a switch to store billing information in response to a

9   triggering event;and

10   c.   ~~forming a new call originating from the calling party and terminating at the called~~

11   ~~party~~ configuring a control point to activate the triggering event in response to

12   receiving an appropriate signal from the service and to transfer the incoming call

13   from the service to the called party such that the calling party and the called party

14   are connected thereby forming the outgoing call, wherein the billing information

15   corresponding to the outgoing call is stored in the switch and the stored billing

16   information is used to charge the predetermined telephone line.~~;~~

17   ~~d.   storing billing information related to the new call in the switch associated with the~~

18   ~~predetermined telephone line in response to a signal initiated by the service; and~~

19   ~~e.   automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line using the~~

20   ~~stored billing information.~~

1   7.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 6 further comprising activating a

2   terminating attempt trigger in the switch associated with the predetermined telephone line.

1   8.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein storing billing

2   information on the switch is in response to activating the terminating attempt trigger.

1   9.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein the stored billing

2   information includes a call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the

3   new call.

1   10.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 6 further comprising setting a

2   telephone line as the predetermined telephone line.

1   11.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the calling party is not

2   at the predetermined telephone line.

1   12.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the calling party is the

2   predetermined telephone line.

1   13.   (currently amended) A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein

2   a user initiates the call through a service from a calling party to a called party, comprising the

3   following steps:

4   a.   ~~conveying call data from the service to a control point wherein the control point is~~

5   ~~coupled to the calling party, the predetermined telephone line, and the called party~~

6   <u>receiving an incoming call from the calling party by the service</u>;

7   b.   ~~terminating the call to the service~~ <u>sending a signal from the service to a control</u>

8   <u>point</u>;

9   c.   ~~forming a new call to link the calling party to the called party~~ <u>activating a</u>

10   <u>triggering event in a switch associated with the predetermined telephone line by</u>

11   <u>the control point in response to receiving the signal from the service</u>;

12   d.   ~~storing billing information related to the new call on a switch associated with the~~

13   ~~predetermined telephone line in response to a signal initiated by the service~~

14   <u>transferring the incoming call from the service to the called party such that the</u>

15   <u>calling party and the called party are connected, thereby forming an outgoing call</u>;

16   and

17   e.   ~~automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line using the~~

18   ~~stored billing information~~ <u>storing billing information corresponding to the</u>

19   <u>outgoing call in the switch, wherein the billing information is used to charge the</u>

20   <u>predetermined telephone line</u>.

1   14.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 13 further comprising temporarily

2   connecting the <u>incoming</u> call to the predetermined telephone.

1   15.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 14 further comprising the following

2   steps:

3   a.   terminating the <u>incoming</u> call to the predetermined telephone line; and

4   b.   automatically querying the control point via a terminating attempt trigger located

5   within the switch associated with the predetermined telephone line in response to

6   terminating the <u>incoming</u> call to the predetermined telephone line.

1   16.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 15 wherein storing the billing

2   information related to the ~~new~~ <u>outgoing</u> call on the switch is in response to querying the control

3   point.

1   17.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 wherein the stored billing

2   information includes a call duration of the ~~new~~ <u>outgoing</u> call and a particular feature utilized

3   during the ~~new~~ <u>outgoing</u> call.

1   18.   (previously presented) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the control point

2   activates the triggering event in response to the service initiating the outgoing call to the called

3   party.

1   19.   (previously presented) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the switch is

2   configured to transfer the call from the service to the called party wherein the calling party and

3   the called party are connected and the service is disconnected.

1   20.   (previously presented) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the stored billing

2   information includes a call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the

3   new call.

1   21.   (previously presented) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the calling party

2   is not at the predetermined telephone line.

1   22.   (previously presented) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the calling party

2   is the predetermined telephone line.

1   23.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein the calling party is not

2   at the predetermined telephone line.

1   24.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein the calling party is the

2   predetermined telephone line.